

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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~~Sub  
C13~~

1. A highly compact and portable absorbent article comprising:  
a packaging; and  
an absorbent article reconfigurable from a normal condition to a compressed condition;  
said absorbent article having three dimensions at least one of which is reduced when said  
absorbent article is in said compressed condition; and  
said absorbent article being retained by said packaging when in said compressed  
condition.

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2. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one of said dimensions  
is reduced by at least 30% when said absorbent article is in said compressed condition.

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3. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article occupies a  
volume of space;  
said volume of space being reduced by at least about 30% when said absorbent article is  
reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition.

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4. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said packaging is configured to  
retain at negative pressure said absorbent article when compressed.

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5. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is  
reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by negative pressure.

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6. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is  
reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by physical force.

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7. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is  
reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by rolling.

1 8. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is  
2 reconfigured from said normal condition to said compressed condition by folding.

1 ~~Sub DI~~ 9. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is a diaper.

1 10. An absorbent article as claimed in claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is a sanitary  
2 napkin.

1 ~~Sub DI~~ 11. A portable set of compact absorbent articles, said set comprising:  
2 a carrier including a plurality of compartments; and  
3 a plurality of individually packaged absorbent articles respectively received within said  
4 plurality of compartments, each of said absorbent articles including:  
5 a packaging; and  
6 an absorbent article reconfigurable from a normal condition to a compressed  
7 condition;  
8 said absorbent article having three dimensions at least one of which is reduced when  
9 said absorbent article is in said compressed condition; and  
10 said absorbent article being retained by said packaging when in said compressed  
11 condition.

1 12. A set as claimed in claim 11 wherein each of said absorbent articles is vacuumed  
2 sealed within said packaging at negative pressure.

1 13. A set of compact absorbent articles, said set comprising:  
2 a plurality of absorbent articles each reconfigurable from a normal condition to a  
3 compressed condition;  
4 each of said absorbent articles having three dimensions at least one of which is reduced  
5 when said absorbent article is in said compressed condition; and  
6 said absorbent article being retained by said packaging when in said compressed  
7 condition; and

8 packaging including a plurality of compartments each for receiving one of said absorbent  
9 articles in said compressed condition.

1 14. A set as claimed in claim 13 wherein said packaging includes release seams disposed  
2 between said compartments.

1 15. A set as claimed in claim 13 wherein said absorbent articles are vacuumed sealed at  
2 negative pressure in said packaging.

1 *sub 16* 16. A method for packaging absorbent articles so that the absorbent articles are compact  
2 and portable, said method comprising the steps of:

3 providing an absorbent article, the absorbent article occupying a volume of space in three  
4 dimensions;

5 reconfiguring the absorbent article such that the volume of space is reduced in at least one  
6 of the dimensions;

7 retaining the absorbent article when reconfigured.

1 17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said reconfiguring step comprises the step  
2 of:

3 rolling the absorbent article.

1 18. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said reconfiguring step comprises the step  
2 of:

3 folding the absorbent article.

1 *sub 19* 19. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said retaining step comprises the step of:  
2 packaging the reconfigured absorbent article at negative pressure.

1 20. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said providing step comprises the step of  
2 providing a disposable diaper.

*add A3* *add C3*  
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